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Bissell to Be Succeeded in
Private Institute by Ruina

By HANSON W. BALDWIN

Richard M. Bissell Jr., president of the Institute for Defense Analysis, is leaving his post about Oct. 1. He will be succeeded by Dr. Jack P. Ruina, professor of electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and formerly head of the Pentagon's Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Mr. Bissell's resignation from one of the principal private non-profit organizations that conduct analytical and scientific studies under contract for the Government follows a somewhat stormy two years as president of the institute.

He will leave office for a position with private industry, with the controversy over the institute's role in military studies and its relationship with the military, muddled and apparently settled, at least for the time being, by compromise.

Major underlying problems, chiefly the product of competing requirements — still remain and may become the root cause in some future years of new disagreements. But today, officials believe, the institute and the military are working well together, and the institute's studies are said to be more thorough, objective and complete than at any time in recent history.

Worked for C.I.A.

Mr. Bissell came to the institute in 1962 from the Central Intelligence Agency, where he had been deputy director for operations for many years. The Bay of Pigs operation in Cuba was under his general direction and control. He and the C.I.A. were accused of major responsibility for its failure. However, informed Government sources do not now believe that Mr. Bissell bears major responsibility for its failure.

The institute was established in 1956 as a contractual organization, administered by a group of colleges and universities. It was intended to provide, under contract with the Government, objective analytical studies by qualified scientists, technicians, engineers and professional experts, hired and paid (at considerably higher than Government wages) by the institute itself.

The institute followed the pattern of somewhat similar "think tanks" — as they are called — such as the Rand Corporation of California, the Lincoln Laboratories of M.I.T., the Stanford Research Institute and others.

The Institute for Defense Analysis was originally developed because of some dissatisfaction among civilian officials in the Pentagon with the results of studies done by an "in-house" Defense Department

studies agency — the Weapons Systems Evaluation Group — which had been created to conduct studies for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. W.E.S.E.G., as it is called, was headed by an admiral or general and staffed by a combination of military and civilian personnel. The civilian analysts were under Civil Service status.

The establishment of the institute transferred the civilians, W.E.S.E.G. to the Weapons System Evaluation Division (W.E.S.E.D.) of the institute and put them on a civilian payroll. The staff members, however, continued to be housed and worked in the Pentagon, next to their military associates.

Several Agencies Involved

When Mr. Bissell came to the institute, the organization had expanded to three divisions, which worked, under contract with not only W.E.S.E.G., but also for the Defense Department's director of research and engineering, the State Department, the Disarmament Agency and sometimes other Government agencies.

Mr. Bissell, who had been urged to improve the quality of the institute's reports, reportedly sought a greater degree of objectivity and academic freedom for its scientists. He

is said to have tried to change a number of established procedures and relationships. His objective, his friends say, was purely an improvement in the quality of the institute's output and the establishment of a study organization that could provide "detached quality and objectivity."

The wording of contracts was changed, so that the institute now provides "evaluations and operational analyses," not "competent personnel," and the roles of the institute and W.E.S.E.G. and their relationships were defined.

However, the changes engendered bitterness. Two three-star heads of W.E.S.E.G. retired early. Charges and countercharges were traded and anonymous letters, allegedly from scientists in the W.E.S.E.D. of the institute, were sent to newspapers.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff became involved because of their concern lest switching of scientists to and from W.E.S.E.D. to other divisions of the institute might imperil the security and privacy of studies made for W.E.S.E.D. should have a primary interest and loyalty to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Consequently, some of Mr. Bissell's suggestions for further changes were reportedly dropped in order to meet these objections, and the institute, W.E.S.E.G. and W.E.S.E.D. are now said to be working smoothly.